

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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43

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /026 W

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R 140931Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5900

INFO AMCONSUL ASMARA

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 9811

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS PINT ET

SUBJECT: CISCO TWO

REF: A. STATE 192427; B. ADDIS 9561

1. AMBASSADOR AT 1100 A.M. AUGUST 14 CALLED ON MOFA VICE MINISTER HAMID, SAID HE WAS CARRYING OUT INSTRUCTIONS FROM DEPT, AND READ FOLLOWING STATEMENT (LEAVING COPY OF TEXT):

QUOTE WE HAVE RELIABLE INFORMATION FROM OUTSIDE ETHIOPIA THAT TWO DIFFERENT NON-AMERICAN NEWSMEN HAVE BEEN IN ERITREA AND INTERVIEWED THE TWO AMERICANS KIDNAPPED FROM ASMARA. THEY WILL SHORTLY PUBLISH THESE INTERVIEWS, PROBABLY ONE IN FRANCE AND ONE IN THE UNITED STATES. ACCORDING TO WHAT WE KNOW OF THE CONTENTS OF THE INTERVIEWS, THE STATEMENTS SUPPOSEDLY MADE BY CAMPBELL AND HARRELL ARE NON-POLITICAL; THEY DESCRIBE THEIR DUTIES AT KAGNEW AND THEIR PERSONAL BACKGROUNDS. BOTH OF THESE NEWSMEN HAVE SAID THAT THE TWO MEN WERE IN THE SAHIL DISTRICT WHEN INTERVIEWED, AND THAT THEY ARE IN THE HANDS OF THE PLF, NOT ELF. ONE OF THE INTERVIEWERS SAYS THAT A PLF OFFICIAL TOLD HIM THERE WOULD BE TWO DEMANDS MADE AS CONDITIONS FOR RELEASE OF THE MEN: THAT THE ETHIOPIAN GOVERNMENT RELEASE ERITREAN POLITICAL PRISONERS; AND THAT THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT MUST PAY RANSOM OF AN UNSTATED AMOUNT. END QUOTE

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2. AMBASSADOR ADDED THAT AS MOFA HAS ALREADY BEEN INFORMED, USG DOES NOT PAY RANSOM, AND CONSIDERS IT IS RESPONSIBILITY OF EPMG TO EFFECT SAFE RETURN OF TWO MEN.

3. HAMID SAID HE UNDERSTOOD US POSITION AS CONVEYED PREVIOUSLY, AND THAT MOFA HAS RECOGNIZED EPMG RESPONSIBILITY. HAMID THAN READ EXCERPTS OF AUG 6 REUTERS STORY FROM BEIRUT IN WHICH OSMAN SALEH SABBEH SAID CISCO TWO ARE IN ELF REPEAT ELF HANDS, IT IS NOT POLICY OF INSURGENTS TO MOLEST AMERICANS OR DEMAND RANSOM (REF B), AND SAID HE WILL WORK FOR THEIR RELEASE. AMBASSADOR AGREED THAT THE STATEMENT IS CONFUSING, BUT SAID IT NOW APPEARS CERTAIN PRISONERS ARE IN PLF REPEAT PLF HANDS.

4. HAMID SAID EPMG HAS SOME UNCONFIRMED REPORTS OF WHEREABOUTS OF CISCO TWO AND AS SOON AS THESE CAN BE CONFIRMED EPMG WOULD LET EMBASSY KNOW, AND CONSIDER MORE CONCRETE ACTION.

5. WE WILL REPLY SEPARATELY TO PARA TWO REFTEL (MOBILIZING SABBEH).; HUMMEL

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** INSTRUCTIONS, KIDNAPPING, BUSINESSMEN, TERRORISTS, POLITICAL PRISONERS, PRESS CONFERENCES, PRISONERS RELEASE  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 14 AUG 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** CunninFX  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** CISCO TWO  
**TAGS:** PINS, PINT, CASC, ET, UN, ELF, PLF, (CAMPBELL, STEVEN C), (HARRELL, JAMES J)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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